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STAT

Return of CIA to Secrecy Role Sought

BY PETER LISAGOR
Our Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON—The Kennedy administration is reported to be considering ways to get the Central Intelligence Agency back into the hush-hush business.

The political furor over Cuba has threatened to make a shuttlecock of the CIA, whose secret operations have been defended and assailed since its creation after World War II.

Disclosures about the practice of the CIA and the intelligence sections of the armed services have led Chairman George Mahon (D-Texas) of the House military appropriations subcommittee to call for action to stop the "rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort."

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"MAHON SAID men who should be "neither seen nor heard" are exercising "bad judgment" with their almost daily statements about sensitive intelligence matters. He said the situation is "outrageous and intolerable."

Mahon did not exempt the administration from his indictment. In an apparent reference to the defense department's recent televised defense of its statment that all missile sites in Cuba have been removed, Mahon said:

The administration has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

He reminded Congress that John A. McCone, CIA director, is responsible under law to protect "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosures." And he added he will ask the President, vice president and House speaker to take coordinated action to avoid giving the enemy "a priceless advantage."

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and his minority counterpart, Everett Dirksen, engaged in an exchange Friday on what Mansfield called "panic politics" and "prowling over the dead" in resurrecting the news that four American pilots died in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

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DIRKSEN BLAMED Atty. General Robert F. Kennedy for reopening the Bay of Pigs subject "after it had languished for 20 months." In a magazine interview, Kennedy said the administration had never promised air cover for the invasion. A point of controversy.

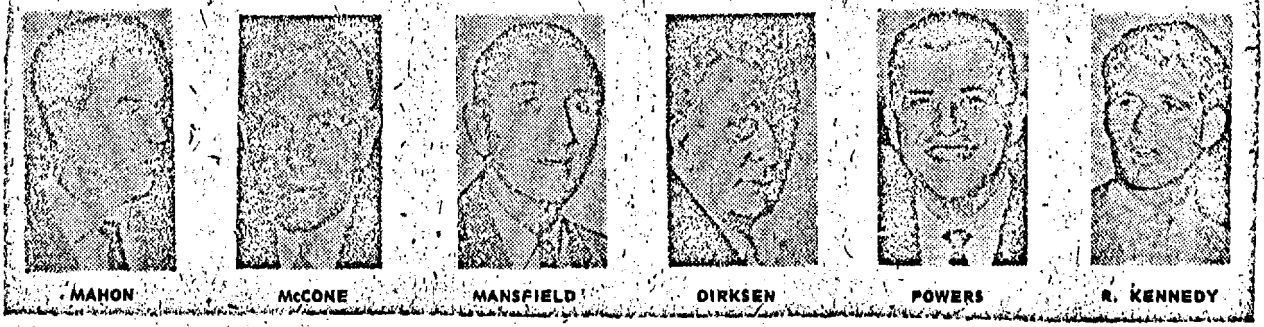
The CIA's hiring of civilian pilots to conduct its aerial espionage was first dramatized when Francis Gary Powers' U-2 plane was shot down over Russia in 1960. Then President Eisenhower took full responsibility for the spy plane's activities, raising the question of whether U.S. officials should acknowledge anything about the government's intelligence operations.

Even bfeore the Powers' case, the CIA was freely reported to have been active in the overthrow of the Communist-oriented Guatemalan regime in the 1950's, but no official confirmation was ever made of this.

The CIA practice in employing volunteer specialists has been an open secret. Most of these specialists have kept silent, in accordance with their agreement.

But in the context of political controversy over Cuba, some of those hired to train Cuban pilots of B-26's apparently have felt themselves no longer bound to remain quiet.

The concern over intelligence operations has again raised the question of whether a joint congressional committee should be established as a watchdog over CIA. Congressmen who have opposed this watchdog panel say recent events prove that legislators cannot be counted upon to keep the CIA out of politics.



MAHON McCONE MANSFIELD DIRKSEN POWERS R. KENNEDY

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